

HF 5548

2
.E5
1981
c.1
Gen

THE EARLY WORD PROCESSORS

Research Report 3



Carroll H.

Blanchard Jr.

State
University
at Farmingdale

1981



PUBLISHED BY: EDUCATORS-PROJECT IV
170 OTTAWA ST., LAKE GEORGE, NY 12845

"NOTHING TO EQUAL THE HAMMOND!"

From the sale of the first model, through 1888, the Hammond was a remarkable success. It worked so well, with clean, uniformly dark and aligned print. And it was an attractive machine. Particularly the model in the handsome wood frame with its compact size and stylish curved keyboard--it was an attractive piece of furniture as well as a conversation piece in any home or office. J. B. Hammond easily made his million dollars. It was that popular!

Even poems were written about it, including this one published in a daily newspaper in Manchester, England: 'Of typewriters, Sir, I have tried not a few, And the merits of each I've examined, But still, Sir, I don't mind admitting to you, I've found nothing to equal the Hammond! It's Interchangeable Type, for all nations and tongues, Is a point of importance, indeed, Whilst the carriage runs smooth, to a touch short and light, Which affords satisfaction and speed. With many devices, the Hammond abounds, Which makes work upon it a pleasure, Yet, complete in oak case, it but weighs eighteen pounds; A valuable, portable treasure! Perfect alignment will also be found, When its excellent work is examined, And then, Sir, with me, I'm sure you'll agree, There's nothing to equal the Hammond!'

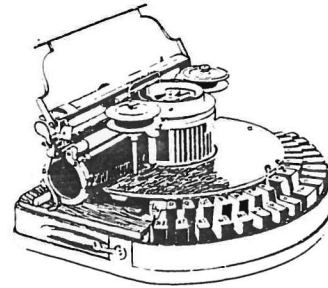
Other inventors sought ways to make the Hammond even better, including one invention to use the knees for shifting; and another invention to do the same thing with a foot pedal.

But around 1890, sales began to drop. Why? This was the 'perfect typewriter' of the 1880's was it not? Not quite!

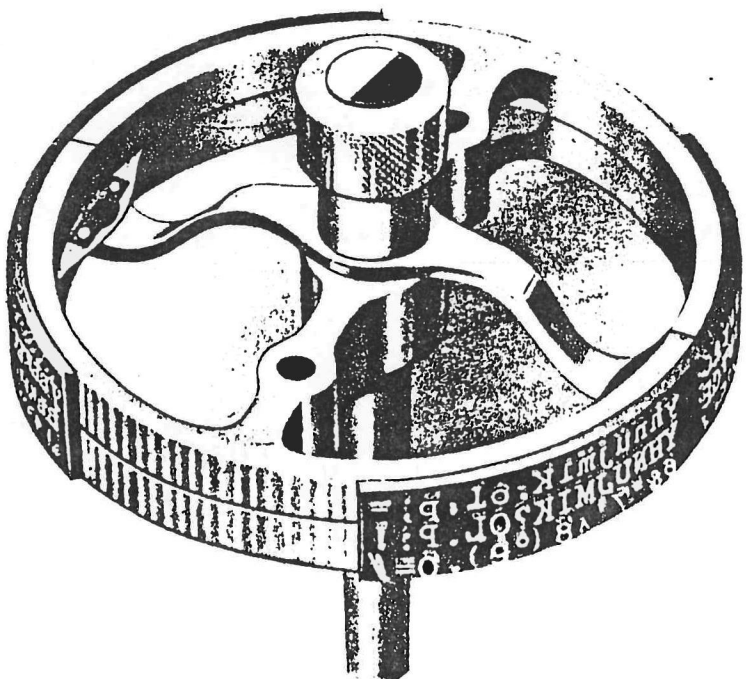
The Hammond (and all the machines based on John Pratt's type-wheel design in the 1890's) had one gigantic flaw: The typist would strike a key and then wait--unable to strike another key--until the type-sector (wheel or sleeve) turned to the right letter, stopped, struck the paper (or was struck from behind by a hammer), and then turned back to the starting point, ready for the next key to be struck. In short: THEY WERE SLOW!

For this reason, sales dropped off when typists after 1889 began to type by touch. From the sale of his very first models, J. B. Hammond worked to offset this fact that his machine was slow with an ingenious appeal to the public on a unique feature of the type-wheel design: You could switch to a different type face in a matter of seconds. The Hammond Typewriter Company developed and stocked type-sectors for almost every language and for hundreds of type styles. When sales dropped off after 1889, Hammond introduced the MULTIPLEX--a type-sector in front and one in the rear on the same machine at one time so the typist could easily switch back and forth between the two.

When most of the machines based on John Pratt's type-wheel design disappeared during the 1930's and 1940's, J. B. Hammond's type-sector would survive as the Vari-Typer, a copy composer for printers and duplicating departments. Of course, by then, all those gracefully curved keyboards and handsome polished wood-frames of the early models had long since disappeared only to be found as the 'gem' in any antique typewriter collection.



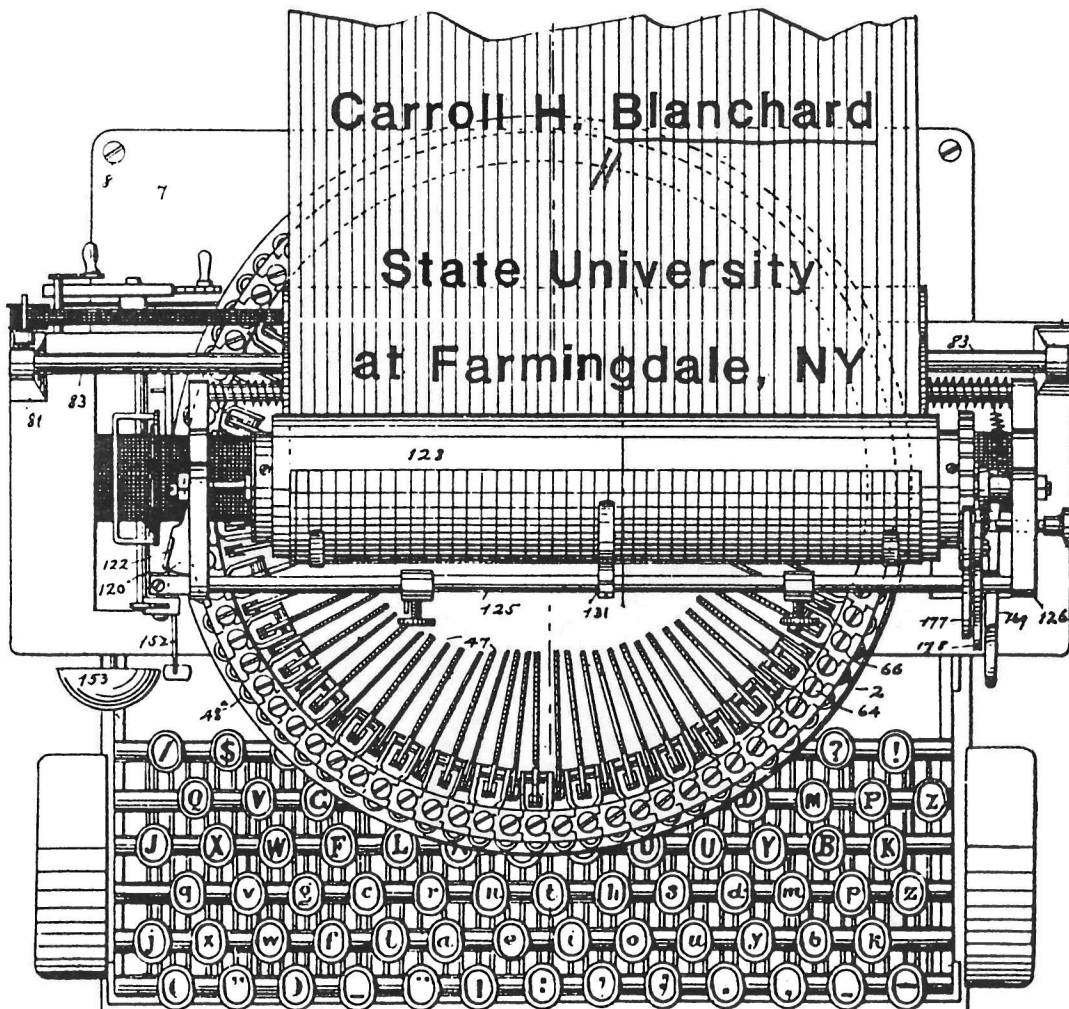
"MULTIPLEX" SECTOR SHUTTLE



WORD PROCESSING: KEYBOARDS, KINESTHESIS & WOMEN.

Carroll H. Blanchard

State University
at Farmingdale, NY



PUBLISHED BY: EDUCATORS-PROJECT IV
170 OTTAWA ST., LAKE GEORGE, NY 12845

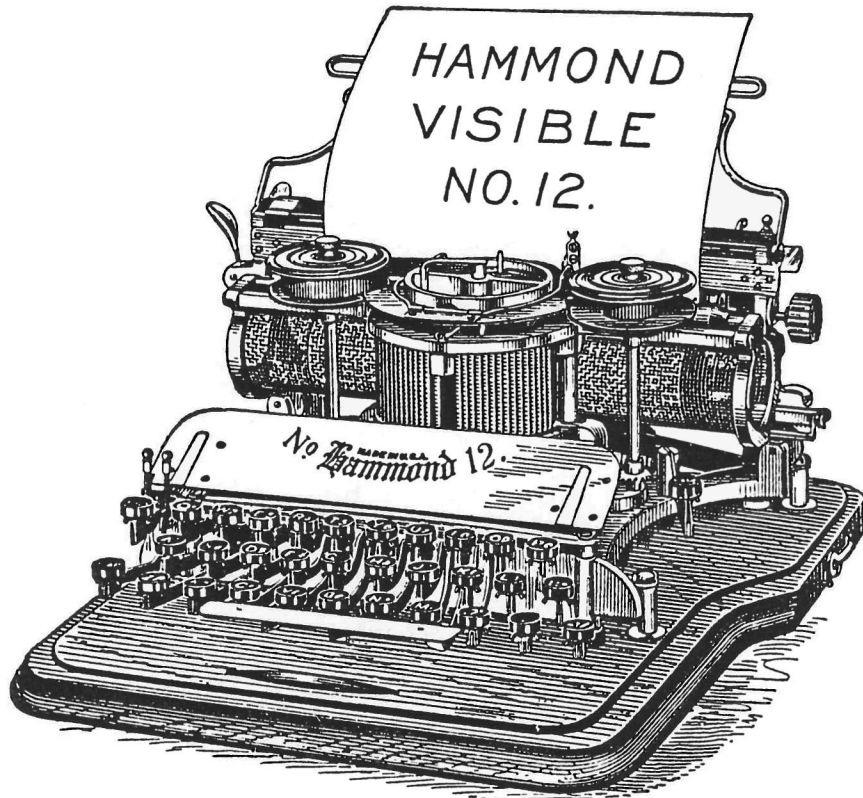
Research Report 4

1981

"UNIVERSAL" KEYBOARD MODEL:

Mr. Dexter of Texas

USES A



Model No. 12 Hammond Visible

AND

This Is What He Says

"The TEXAS BANKERS' JOURNAL has made an investigation and had the privilege of selecting any of the modern STANDARD TYPEWRITERS. We accepted the HAMMOND, and find it all that was represented. We are entirely satisfied after using it one year."

AND

THERE ARE OTHERS

WHO WILL TESTIFY IN A LIKE MANNER

The Hammond Typewriter Company

69th-70th Sts., East River NEW YORK CITY, U. S. A.

ADVERTISEMENT: EARLY 1900'S

Early WPs, p 229, same pic
and in photo